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SECRET

INSTRUCTIONS,

BY

FREDERICK THE SECOND,

KING OF PRUSSIA.

Secret Instructions,

BY

FREDERICK THE SECOND,

KING of PRUSSIA:

BEING

SECRET ORDERS given by that MONARCH to the OFFICERS of his Army, and particularly to those of the CAVALRY, for the Regulation of their Conduct in War.

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL GERMAN,
into
FRENCH,
BY
THE PRINCE DE LIGNE,
AND NOW FIRST TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH.

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1798.

TO

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

FREDERICK,

DUKE OF YORK AND ALBANY,

FIELD MARSHALL

AND

COMMANDER IN CHIEF

OF

HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES:

THIS TRANSLATION

OF

A WORK,

RENDERED EMINENT BY THE GREAT HAND

BY WHICH IT WAS ORIGINALLY COMPOSED,

IS

WITH ALL RESPECT AND HUMILITY,

INSCRIBED,

BY

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS'S

GREATLY OBLIGED,

AND DEVOTED SERVANT,

EDWARD EYRE,

LATE CAPT. IN THE 40th REG.

AND

LIEUT. COL. IN THE ARMY.

LONDON,

AUG. 16, 1798.


BRITISH MUSEUM
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How

PREFATORY ADDRESS

OF THE

FRENCH TRANSLATOR,

TO HIS

FELLOW OFFICERS

IN THE

AUSTRIAN ARMIES.

IT is not to give you any rules of conduct that I tranſlate this Work, which is ſufficiently recommended by the name of it's

author; but to acquaint you with the uſe which the officers, for whom it has been written, ſhould make of the excellent principles that it contains.

In theſe regulations, my dear Comrades, we have the united product of honor, and genius; of experience, and mathematical ſcience: let us ſtudy them well; and we ſhall eſcape the ſnares of an enemy, who is neither to be feared, nor to be deſpiſed.

Let us preſerve intrepidity, a part ſo precious of a profeſſion, which cannot be honorably fol-

lowed

lowed without it; and for that purpoſe, let us not indulge in that inconſiderate valour, which may lead to a forfeiture of the glory that we court: checks, occaſioned by this noble exceſs of ſpirit, make us diffident of ourſelves, and diminiſh the confidence of others.

Let us avoid all thoſe haſty purſuits from too great a diſtance, in which, the horſes, being quite ſpent, loſe the ſtrength requiſite for reſiſtance, if the troops, who are at length overtaken, be willing to offer only a ſlight oppoſition.

LET thoſe who are appointed to ſuſtain or relieve, in caſe of a repulſe, forbear to engage: if they do not, I regard them as already beaten; and I believe that a whole wing of Cavalry, who ſhould engage in this manner, by ſmall diviſions, would experience the misfortune of defeat.

BRAVE Huſſars! receive here the praiſes which you deſerve: it ſeems as if nature at your birth had refuſed you none of the qualities neceſſary to the ſervices of out-poſts.

AND

And you, likewiſe, worthy Croates! the ſafety and honor of our armies, you deſerve our praiſes for your courage and intrepidity.

INTRODUCTION.

MANY think themſelves able to command, and are deſirous of governing others, even before they have learnt to obey: this happens particularly in the military, and among young officers: but did they know, that a momentary fault may deſtroy the military character which many years have raiſed; that, in war, faults are ſoon followed by puniſhment, and cannot,

as elſewhere, be repaired, they would certainly be more ſolicitous to acquire knowledge than confident to exhibit it in action. Experience leads by juſt and certain ſteps to honor, and not by hidden paths, in which you can but ſtagger and fall. It is by obedience that the paſſions of the young may be ſufficiently controlled; and it is obedience which familiariſes the ſoldier with danger; rendering him intrepid, and giving him the neceſſary capacity to take, without difficulty, an inſtantaneous reſolution: it is this virtue which reconciles the ſoldier to the hardſhips of war, inducing him to a delight

in

in his employments, becauſe he is preferred by degrees: it is obedience that makes the officer live with the privates, conciliating their friendſhip and eſteem, and making them execute, with the greateſt preciſion and zeal, the orders of their ſuperiors.

As the officer muſt eaſily perceive that honor is the only way to preferments, honor will be the end of all his actions; and his courage will incite him to the greateſt enterpriſes. Honor will conſtantly ſtimulate him not only to avoid reproaches, but alſo to gain the eſteem of men: he will be convinced

vinced that it is not enough to ſeize the opportunity which is offered, but that he ſhould always be anxiouſly courting and expecting it. He muſt endeavour, by every means, to diſcover the deſigns and attempts of the enemy, that he may be able to prevent him; and, according to circumſtances, to attack, weaken, and harraſs him. Let this be a general maxim with the pupil of honor, that nothing can be executed without the hazarding of ſomething: let him avoid a too great confidence in himſelf; let him not rely too much on his own views and boldneſs; let him know that nothing can be

performed

performed without the aſſiſtance of his comrades; let him learn to know them, and particularly thoſe who are immediately under him; let him try their talents, and chooſe his friends among the beſt of them: he ſhould know from the diſpoſition of each, for what enterpriſe each is fit: there are, for inſtance, Huſſars very expert in bringing intelligence of the enemy, and very unſkilful in reconnoitring a country: others, on the contrary, are able to perform this duty, but their ſtrength will not permit them to execute the former one, becauſe they would be obliged to paſs more than one night in a wood, on an

extraordinary

extraordinary guard: others, again, are more fit for patroles, and for ſkirmiſhes, than for great occaſions. What is intended for the officer may be applied likewiſe to the private. If the commander will but ſtudy the nature and character of theſe precepts, the ſucceſs on their obſervance will be eaſy and certain. In the ſquadrons old ſoldiers are to be found, who are not deſtitute of capacity, and who either can diſcover new ſchemes, or, will procure them to be diſcovered: with ſuch as theſe, let the officer often converſe; and by their means he may improve and obtain that confidence which is of

great

great utility in all kinds of military enterpriſes. The officer ſhould diſtinguiſh the brave from the cowardly, that he may ſeaſonably employ them when occaſion ſhall occur. Good ſoldiers ſhould be uſed kindly, and their wants ſupplied; and then honor and fame may be expected from their actions. As for timorous young people, they muſt be dragged along and prevailed upon to ſhake off the thoughts of danger: by theſe means, I have often ſeen officers undertake things, which, at firſt ſight, drew upon them the accuſation of raſhneſs. It is to be lamented, when an officer, having

in

in view a certain preferment, feels no desire of advancement, as soon as he has obtained the object of his wishes; it is certain that, in the beginning, he will take incredible pains, and employ every exertion to possess himself of that place, and the more quickly, perhaps, as he may know himself to be unable to fill it. Thus may be explained the conduct of those, who, for a while, take great pains, and will perform more than they can well do; and, then, as soon as they have attained the end of their pursuit, grow indolent, and think no longer of their duty.

THE

The orders of ſuch perſons depend only upon circumſtances: they are without regularity or choice; and, by this uncertain conduct, loſe both their authority and character. He, who looks only for riches, becomes parſimonious and rapacious, and draws on himſelf the hatred and contempt of the men. Nothing renders an officer ſo deſpicable in the eyes of the privates, as the ſuſpicion of ſordid œconomy. Gaming is often its cauſe; and the ſource alſo of many baſe actions. Let them rather employ their money in procuring good arms and horſes,

upon

upon which often depend both honor and life.

LET the officer be moderate in his expences, for thus he not only retrenches what is ſuperfluous, but alſo becomes more active and capable of gallantly diſcharging his duty. He ſhould be a model to all his inferiors; for, in general, theſe will follow the example of their commanders. This is eſpecially the caſe when an officer is given up to drunkenneſs, or to ſome other notorious vice: and under this circumſtance, he loſes the right of reproving thoſe who are guilty of the ſame exceſſes, for

by

by reproving them, he would condemn himſelf. The foundation and ſource of all qualification, requiſite to make a gallant officer, is a moral conduct, not only proceeding from principle, but viſibly governing his actions, and preſerving them from all liableneſs to cenſure; for true courage is aſhamed of the leaſt blemiſh.

I HAVE told you, how one ſhould firſt improve and render himſelf fit for the nobleſt enterpriſes: we will now ſee what ſhould be the conduct of an officer of cavalry, in order to obtain both honor and fame in the campaign.

CHAP. I.

Of Grand Guards.

WHEN the whole or the part of an army is on the march, the light horſe ought to form the van and rear-guard, and the ſide patroles. Moſt of theſe detachments are deſtined to form the guard of the advanced poſts.

When the army is arrived at the place, where it is to encamp, the van-guard divides into different troops,

and ſpreads itſelf ſo as to be able to cover the front of the whole camp: while the infantry places it's guards and pitches it's tents, the rear guard and patroles do the ſame.

Whilſt the Army is employed in poſting it's guards and pitching it's tents, the detachments, before mentioned, go the round; and cauſe all the buſhes and the vallies, ſituated before the front, to be ſearched, leſt, during that time, any detachment of the enemy, which might be hidden thereabouts, ſhould ſurprize and annoy the army. This being done, and the tent pitched, the major-general of the day, or any other commanding officer, poſts the grand guards, and aſſigns to each officer in particular the poſition he

he muſt keep. All the grand guards ought to be poſted, as much as poſſible, in ſuch a manner, that the picquets be upon hillocks, and concealed under trees. The corps du guard muſt be on the plain, covered by buſhes or houſes, 7, 8, or 900 paces behind the picquets, that the enemy may not diſcover them, and judge of their force; but the guard muſt never loſe ſight of the picquets. If the officer appointed, after having ſet his poſts, happens to be in an unknown country, he is to command that a man of the neighbouring houſes be brought to him; he muſt draw the map of that country; enquire the name of the different villages; and inform himſelf of every thing which he ought to know; for inſtance, where

are any defiles, marſhes, ponds, and buſhes in the environs; he ought to reconnoitre all the cauſeways and roads, which are before his poſts; he ſhould enquire where they lead; whether it is poſſible to paſs through them with cannon; or whether the enemy may approach ſecretly near his poſts by other roads. He muſt know all theſe circumſtances, that he may be able to give an account of them, if it be required. He muſt take his meaſures, and be able fully to inſtruct the patroles, whom he ſhall ſend forward. When well informed, he ſhall mount his horſe, and go near the videts, who ought always to be two and two together at one poſt. He then ſhall inſtruct each in particular, which way

they

they muſt look out, eſpecially upon valleys, villages, and highways.

After having fully inſtructed his poſts, the officer, if it be neceſſary, ſhall order his men to diſmount, and to feed their horſes; but if his poſt is not ſure, he ſhall leave half of the horſes bridled, till the other half have eaten. During the night, he ſhall not permit them to diſmount, nor to feed their horſes: all this muſt be done in the evening, before dark, that every one, when the night comes, may be with horſe bridled, and at leaſt, half of them mounted to be in readineſs againſt all events. If the corps du guard is near a village, the officer may ſend one or two men up to the ſteeple or a lofty houſe, from whence

they may diſcover the enemy afar off, and give the ſignal of his approach by firing a carabine or a piſtol.

When a general goes out of the camp, and paſſes the grand guards, they muſt mount their horſes, and draw their ſwords: but, if they are in ſight of the enemy, they muſt not be commanded to act in this manner, becauſe the enemy, being near, might diſcover the preſence of the general, and take an opportunity of diſturbing him in viſiting the poſts. When a detachment likewiſe paſſes the grand guards, the officer commands his men to mount their horſes, and draw their ſwords.

He

He muſt examine well all the people coming to his poſts, from the places round the army, either country people or travellers. He ſhall enquire from them of the roads; whence they come; where they go; what are their occupations, in the camp or elſewhere; what they know of the enemy, and where his poſts are: then according to circumſtances and his orders, he is to let them paſs, or to make them go back the ſame way: he ſhall behave, in the ſame manner, to ſuch as bring proviſions into the camp; and, if it be forbidden to let them enter, he ſhall diſmiſs them quietly. He ſhall alſo be kind to the people of the hoſtile country; becauſe, by ſuch conduct, he will obtain good intelligence,

and

and be able to procure great advantages to the army. The Officer muſt, by day and night, viſit the videts, queſtion them about what they have to do at their poſts, and upon what they are to fix their view, that he may thus inform himſelf, if the order has been duly delivered to them. He muſt always be provided with a good perſpective glaſs, and reconnoitre the environs himſelf every hour. By night he ſhall cauſe all the poſts to be viſited by a non-commiſſioned officer; and ſhall do it himſelf once, that his ſoldiers may always be ready and alert. When one in the advanced poſts is near to the enemy's camp, and it is poſſible for him to obſerve all the enemy's motions, he muſt, above all things, pay attention to the

troops

troops that enter; to the numbers of thoſe who go out, and to the way by which they paſs; for the enemy very often detaches troops from his camp, and moſtly from the ſecond and third line, leaving the tents pitched to conceal his march. The officer therefore muſt be very attentive, and have a good perſpective glaſs, that when ſuch a caſe occurs, he may be able to give an immediate account to the commanding officer. This precaution is particularly neceſſary at the break of day, in order to know whether any changes have been made by the enemy, during the night, or whether every thing is ſtill in its former poſition. While it is dark, it may be known, by a ſort of confuſed noiſe, whether troops enter or go out of the enemy's camp;

for

for if any enter the fact may be aſcertained by the buzz of the ſoldiers, the cries of waggoners and artillery men, and the neighing of horſes: if cavalry enter, it is diſcoverable by their noiſe in breaking open the picquets, and by the increaſe of their fires: one muſt then continually keep forward, be ſtill, and obſerve every thing very attentively: but if the army, or only a part of it makes any motion during the night, it is to be known by the ſigns of which I have ſpoken before, the noiſe diminiſhing and the fire decreaſing by degrees; yet one cannot always rely on this laſt remark, becauſe the light horſe of the enemy keep up the fires ſome times even after the army has marched out,

If

If our army decamp by day, when the drum beats, the grand guard muſt mount on horſeback, and examine with the utmoſt attention the enemy, who is before them; and, after taking away their poſts, they muſt march to the place appointed for them, becauſe they are commonly the rear guard.

It is the general in chief who ought to appoint the time for the departure of the advanced guards. On ſuch an occaſion, the poſts muſt not make any great motions, it being neceſſary for them to ſtay in their uſual poſition, becauſe, by commanding them to go one way or another, or to mount their horſes too ſoon, the enemy may have a ſuſpicion of our marching out, and

ſend

ſend ſome of their troops to purſue us: the ſoldiers are not to know any thing of it, but, when it is time, he muſt ſend an officer or a non-commiſſioned officer to the out poſts, to order in the videts at once: as ſoon as the videts ſhall ſee ſomething of the enemy, they ſhall fire; he who has fired ſhall then tell his poſt what he has ſeen, and this poſt ſhall keep concealed, and in readineſs. The officer ſhall ſend immediately a non-commiſſioned officer with ſome men, to diſcover the ſtrength of the enemy, immediately to give an account of what he has diſcovered to the general, that he may take his meaſures, and, if neceſſary, ſend aſſiſtance to that poſt.

The

The enemy's generals frequently advance, with a good force, as far as the advanced guards, and drive the videts away from the hills, in order to get upon them and reconnoitre our camp: as ſoon as the officer has notice of this by his videts, he is to go there himſelf, and, if he ſee that an eſcorted retinue comes near the hill, he is directly to order an account of it to be given to the officer on whom he depends; and to endeavour to diſconcert the project of reconnoitring, and defend that hill. When a trumpeter of the enemy approaches, alone or with an officer, to the videts, and blows his trumpet, one of them comes off and meets him, attends him to his poſt, and makes him

him front the ſide of the enemy, that he may not make obſervations; while the other videt goes to the officer, and acquaints him with the event. The officer then goes himſelf, or ſends a non-commiſſioned officer, and cauſes the trumpeter, being properly blind-folded, to be conducted to his poſt; there he queſtions him about his commiſſion, gives an account of it to the general, and inquires whether he will have him ſent to the camp: the ſame conduct is to be obſerved towards deſerters from the enemy; at the advanced poſts their arms are to be taken away, and they are then to be ſent with a ſtrong guard to the general, this precaution is very neceſſary during the night.

If

If the advanced guards are poſted ſo as to have a broad ditch, a brook, or a river before their front, the officer muſt viſit, on horſeback, the whole extent of his poſt, and ſee whether there are in it, any paſſages or bridges: if there are any, he muſt poſt his videts near them, that the enemy may not ſurprize him; in that caſe, the videts are not to be drawn back during the night; the boats, which cover the bridges, muſt be taken away, and carried to our ſide, for the purpoſe of preventing the paſſage of the detachments and patroles of the enemy; and night rounds muſt be ordered along the ditches and rivers: when the banks are covered with buſhes, caution is to be uſed, and one

muſt often ſtop and liſten if any whiſpering be heard, as it would be eaſy for the infantry to creep there, and hurt or kill the patroles: the videts muſt, in general, be poſted with ſuch precaution, that they may not miſs one another.

About the evening, the officer of the vanguards ſhall ſend an account, by a non-commiſſioned officer, of what paſſes at his poſt, and of what he has heard from his patroles, peaſants, or other people: that he may forget nothing, he ſhould write down in his pocket book all the diſcoveries which he has made during the day, and, when occaſion offers, ſend his account in writing: at the ſame time he ſhall order the watch word to

be

be brought to him, and ſhall give this word to the videts every time that they are relieved, that is, every hour, or two hours, according to the circumſtances of the time. As to the parole, none but he ought to know it.

If the obſcurity of the night ſhould not permit him to ſee at a diſtance, eſpecially when the poſts of the enemy are near, the officer muſt retire two or three hundred paces behind, and order likewiſe his videts to obſerve a proportionate diſtance.

If the ſeaſon require, and circumſtances permit, there may be a little fire made, but it muſt be in a hollow place, for fear it ſhould be deſcried:

at the firſt alarm, it muſt be put out, and, if there ſhould be no water near, it ought to be covered with ſand, becauſe it might favour the views of the enemy and hurt the poſts.

The officer of the poſt ſhall always keep his people in a ſtate of the greateſt vigilance, and ſhall allow them neither to go to reſt, nor to untie their horſes; the reins of the bridle and ſnaffle are to be left ready on the ſaddle, that at the firſt ſignal, every one may inſtantly mount.

The officer ſhall ſend every hour, and more frequently, if neceſſary, ſmall patroles beyond his videts, and ſhall determine the number of them according to the force of his guards; theſe

theſe patroles ſhall go the rounds before the front, and the videts 300 paces forwards: they ſhall often ſtop and liſten, whether walking, or any other noiſe is to be heard: if there be, one man of the patroles ſhall return to his poſt; and the others ſhall advance as far as poſſible, in order to diſcover at a nearer diſtance, from what it proceeds: if it be a party of the enemy, the patroles ſhall immediately fire, and fall all together upon them under the favour of the night.

If the videts ſhould hear any perſon advancing to them, one of them muſt go to meet him, at the diſtance of five hundred paces, or thereabouts, and cry, "Who comes there?" and aſk for the watch-word; if no anſwer

be given, he ſhall fire, and ride in, full ſpeed, to his poſt.

If any detached troops of the army ſhould by night approach the videts, they ought not at firſt to be permitted to enter the chain; though the watch-word be right, the officer of the poſt ſhall order the officer, who commands the detachment, to come to him, under the eſcort of a noncommiſſioned officer and two horſemen, and thoroughly examine him; if he know him, he ſhall order the detachment to the camp; but ſhall detain the officer till the detachment paſs the grand guard, and then diſmiſs him. But if that detachment ſhould be, as is often the caſe, abſent from the army for ſeveral days, and for this

reaſon

reaſon could not have the watch word, the officer of the poſt muſt uſe much more precaution, and examine very minutely; and if there be no difficulty, he ſhall make them file off man by man, in his preſence.

If the van-guards, from want of men, be obliged to poſt their videts very diſtinctly from one another, in a mountainous country; or if the night be extremely dark, or the weather ſtormy, the videts ſhould go the rounds towards one another, on the right and on the left: out of two, however, there muſt be always one left at the front, that no one may creep between them, through ſome hollow places: on ſuch occaſions, the patroles muſt not be diſcontinued, and the

men of the vanguards ought always to be in motion.

A general from the army ſometimes comes, with a wiſh of obtaining intelligence of the enemy, and commands the officer to proceed on with him under the eſcort of his vanguard. The officer, in this caſe, ſhall leave the videts at their poſts; out of the remainder of his troop he ſhall form a vanguard and a ſide patrole, to protect the general and his retinue: if the general ſhould go out of the line, the officer ſhall keep four or five hundred paces in flank, on the ſide of the enemy, and ſhall always have it in his power to protect the general, wherever he may pleaſe to go; he ſhall, alſo, ſend from his troops, horſemen,

who,

who, following one after the other, ſhall always look out towards the enemy, that no one may approach to ſurprize or diſturb them. When the general ſhall return to the camp, and has paſſed the chain, the officer ſhall return to his poſt.

If the officer of the advanced poſts ſhould expect to be attacked in the night, he muſt inſtruct his videts and non-commiſſioned officers ſo well, that, in caſe of an attack, they ſhould not retire directly upon his troop, but paſs forward on one ſide. This is to be done, that a ſuperior enemy may not fall upon him, and that the commanding officer of the poſt may ſooner meet with an opportunity of attacking in flank, or in the rear, to be able to

make

make a coup de main through favor of the night. In this caſe the vanguards muſt keep firing, and retire as ſlowly as poſſible, in order to give time to the commanded troops to advance to their aſſiſtance, and that the whole body may be warned of the enemy's approach.

If a man deſert from the vanguards, the officer ſhould immediately change the watch word, and communicate the proper information to all the neighbouring picquets; leſt the enemy ſhould ſeize the advantage given him, and, by paſſing for one of our patroles, ſurprize the vanguard: the deſerter alſo might bring the enemy ſtraight to the poſt.

The

The army very often decamps in the night, to march on ſome expedition; but the vanguards are obliged to ſtay in their poſition, till the break of day, that they may the better conceal the movement: the officer muſt then take great care, leſt the enemy ſhould ſecretly approach him, and diſcover the marching off of the army. The whole vanguard ſhall mount their horſes, and continually go the rounds forwards, and along the videts, three or four hundred paces on the ſide of the enemy, and prevent their approach: but, at the break of day, when the enemy ſhall have diſcovered the marching of the army, the officer ſhall take off his videts by degrees, and march, on full ſpeed, to the place aſſigned him. After leaving a non-

commiſſioned

commiſſioned officer to form the rear-guard, he ſhall follow, and thus protect the army: he muſt always have his view backwards, to ſee whether the enemy follow; and, reconnoitring their troops and forces, he ſhall give an account of them to the officer, who commands the rear-guard of the army. Very often, in one of theſe nocturnal decampments, the ſoldiers, ſervants, or women diſcover them, by lighting up the barracks out of malice or neglect. Great care is to be taken that this do not happen; and it is better to appoint people to prevent the riſk of ſuch diſorder.

If any van-guard be poſted in a mountainous place, it will not be ſufficient for them to be covered before

on

on the ſide of the enemy, but the officer muſt viſit on horſeback all the environs during the day, and examine where it will be neceſſary to poſt videts in little vallies, or buſhes, to prevent being ſurpriſed, or ſurrounded: he muſt alſo ſend the patroles about that dangerous neighbourhood. If an officer, being by night in a country quite unknown to him, ſhould receive an order to remove his advanced guard to another part, he muſt not do it at random. He muſt firſt get a light, examine his map, and make himſelf acquainted with the country, which he is charged to guard: he muſt ſee where he can ſtation his outpoſts and videts; and by what ways he may ſend his patroles: he is to enquire of an inhabitant of the place

about

about ſeveral circumſtances; and to requeſt his attendance at ſome place which he may remark on the map; and then he ſhall poſt his videts where he may think proper: if it be near the enemy, it is a reaſon for the ordering of continual patroles during the whole night, without permitting the ſoldiers to diſmount. When, at the break of day, he ſhall be able to diſcover all the country, he is to rectify what may have been done amiſs in the obſcurity of the night.

The ſafety of the army depends on the ſkill and vigilance of the officer, who commands the van-guard, or covers a detached poſt: he muſt, of courſe, take all imaginable trouble to diſcharge his duty, becauſe, by his

neglect

neglect of it, he may occaſion to the army and himſelf the greateſt misfortune. If he is attacked by a ſuperior force, he ſhall defend himſelf as long as he can; and if he is forced, he ſhall retire ſlowly, always continuing his fire and defending himſelf, that the body or army, which he covers, may gain time to join and receive the enemy with ſteadineſs, and without diſorder. The new van-guards, who are to relieve, commonly advance towards the break of day, to a diſtance within ſix or eight hundred paces behind the old ones, to be able to aſſiſt them, ſhould they be attacked, as, about that time, they frequently are. If all be in order by the dawn, the new guard march on towards the old, and, at the diſtance of five hundred paces, draw

their

their ſwords, and take their poſt on the left. The officer of the old guard, at the approach of the new, orders his men to mount their horſes and draw their ſwords: then the two officers meet together, and he who mounts is to aſk very carefully for the order of him who quits the guard. The officer of the new guard draws out of the ranks as many men, as are neceſſary for the videts; takes along with him a non-commiſſioned officer, and muſt be informed of the poſts by the officer of the old guard. Non-commiſſioned officers are to be made uſe of on this occaſion, that they may be able afterwards to head and relieve the poſts. When this is done, the order exactly given on both ſides, and the patroles of the old guard brought in,

the

the latter file off, and, at the diſtance of 100 paces, return their ſwords into the ſheath, and the new guard do the ſame. The officer of the old guard conducts his troops in good order to the regiment, and gives the General notice of his arrival. The officer of the new guard is then to take the place of the old one, and to order his men to diſmount.

the latter fire off, and at the offaulc of 100 paces, return their swords into the sheath, and the new guard to the same. The officer of the old guard collects his troops in good order to the regiment, and gives the General notice of his arrival. The officer of the new guard leaves him to take the place of the old one, and to order his men to dismount.

CHAP. II.

Of the Patroles and Discoveries.

THE patroles are to go the rounds both by day and by night. As one of these differs from the other, so the measures to be taken in either, must be different. I shall here, therefore, set down some particulars of what the officers on duty should do, with respect to the day-patrole.

An officer, or non-commissioned officer, being ordered with four or six men to reconnoitre some parts

of the country on the ſide of the enemy, ſhall ſend one of his beſt men four or five hundred paces forwards: if he be on a plain, he ſhall ſend another man to the ſame diſtance, on the ſide, from whence he thinks the enemy might come; and, if there be any thing to be feared on both ſides, he ſhall ſend a third alſo to the ſame diſtance; and theſe men ſhal lmarch ſo as to be always in a ſtraight line with the troop: but if there be a thick fog, neither the patroles of the flanks, nor the van-guard ſhould withdraw to a diſtance from the main body of the troop; they ſhould not go far for fear of being cut off. It is impoſſible to fire well, therefore much prudence muſt be uſed. Patroles go their rounds often the better, by favour of the fog.

When

When mountains, bushes upon hills, or any villages are discovered at a less distance than four or five hundred paces, the men, detached on the flanks, must go as far as those hills, villages, and almost as far as the bushes. If by chance, when approaching in this manner, they do not see any thing, they must search every where, and use the utmost diligence to discover something of the enemy.

If a detachment, great or small, should be forced to pass through a wood, the men detached on the flank shall come near to the troop, for fear of losing sight of it. They must, however, stay in a straight line one behind another. He who goes for-

wards, ſhall withdraw to a certain diſtance from his troop: he ſhall, likewiſe, ſearch all the hedges and buſhes, and he muſt be particularly attentive to all that he ſees or hears.

Should he encounter in his way a mountain or a hill, he ſhall go up and look on all ſides, in order to diſcover ſomething of the enemy; and if he ſee nothing, he ſhall continue his march. When an officer, or non-commiſſioned officer, is ordered on this ſervice, with eight, ten, or twelve men, he ſhall ſend two of them four or five hundred paces forwards; and detach, from a motive of precaution, two others on the flanks, though there ſhould be nothing to be feared from the enemy on thoſe ſides. Theſe men, thus detached, ſhall do

what

what has been ſaid before. Should the officer march into a wood, he ſhall order two men behind the detachment, at ſuch a diſtance that they may never loſe ſight of it; leſt the enemy, who might be concealed in the woods, ſhould ſurprize, and ſuddenly fall upon the detachment. By this precaution, the danger of ſurprize is avoided.

The two men, ſent forwards, ſhall march in the plain, by one another. Should they meet in their way a village or a buſh, one of them ſhall proceed ſeveral hundred paces, ſlip to that village or buſh, and ſearch it exactly. The ſecond is to follow him through the whole extent of the buſh or village, and is to act like his com-

rade, in order, that, if one had paſſed the enemy without noticing them; the other may thus probably diſcover them. If the two men, ſent forward, find a hill on their route, they ſhall not go up both at once, but one is to go on a ſlow gallop, and, as it has been ſaid before, to look round in order to diſcover ſomething. Should he not ſee any thing, he ſhall remain on the top of the hill, till the other who is to follow at a ſlow place, has overtaken him: then they ſhall go on their way together. If the men detached ſhould perceive the enemy, without being themſelves obſerved, they ſhall not fire, but come back to their troop; who ſhall take another way to avoid diſcovery. If they diſcover the enemy, and are not ſur-

prized

prized by them ſo as to be cut off, they are to make it known by a piſtol ſhot, and to inform the commanding officer of what they have ſeen: as theſe troops are never detached for the purpoſe of engaging with the enemy, the commanding officer muſt retire with his men, as ſoon as he hears the ſhot: it is ſufficient for him to be aſſured of the enemy being near, whether he has or has not the account of thoſe who are detached for the diſcovery, and he ſhall begin his march. If he, who has diſcovered the enemy, is not cut off, he ſhall join his troop, in order to give an account of what he has ſeen. Should the officer perceive the enemy purſuing, and ready to fall upon him with a ſuperior force, he muſt not engage, but muſt diſperſe

his

his men one by one, before the enemy can overtake him: the men, thus diſperſed, ſhall retire behind buſhes, or into villages, where the body of the army, from which they have been detached, ſhall be; and it is not to be thought that the enemy will hazard their people in a purſuit through buſhes or villages. They will fear, when they ſee thoſe whom they purſue retiring ſingly, that there may be a body concealed; for it happens very often, that the purſuers inconſiderately fall into the hands of a concealed body: though in a retreat, many, and even moſt of the men, thus diſperſed, are taken; there are, however, always ſome who make their eſcape, and can bring ſome uſeful intelligence to the commanding officer; but if they retire

all

all together in confuſion, there would not very frequently be one who would eſcape.

If any officer, or non-commiſſioned officer, ſhould be detached, with two, three, four, or five men, to get ſingly into places, where the enemy is already, he ſhall never go by cauſeways or beaten ways, but, as much as the country permits, he ſhall paſs through valleys, hollow ways, buſhes and places, which can cover his march: he is not to mind going a longer way about, if he do but ſucceed in the enterprize committed to his care: but if this expedition be made by night, he ſhall take the meaſures of which I ſhall ſpeak.

An

An officer, diſpatched to watch the enemy, ſhall never engage with them, unleſs forced to it. If he meets with patroles of the enemy, he muſt avoid them, though his force be ſuperior to theirs; neither is he to waſte time in getting booty, or in taking priſoners, becauſe he will, by theſe means, diſcover himſelf, and the enemy will fall upon him, and prevent all his deſigns.

If a hill, occupied by the enemy with few men, is to be ſeized for the purpoſes of diſcovery, it will be proper to approach it as ſecretly as poſſible, and then to aſcend it with fury and the greateſt activity, in order to drive the enemy away. When every thing neceſſary is obſerved, the retreat muſt be made as faſt as poſſible, and by covered ways.

In

In ſuch an enterprize, a few men with horſes, may be left at a certain diſtance from the enemy, near a buſh, or at the entrance of a village, which is to be paſſed through in the retreat: let the horſes be white, that they may be ſeen afar off, to make the enemy, who ſhall purſue the patrole, believe that ſome troops are concealed there: they will then not purſue with ſo much eagerneſs, and the patrole will gain time and ground: there may be alſo a trumpeter left, with a horſeman, behind a mountain; and, on ſeeing the patrole eagerly purſued, the horſeman ſhall ſhew himſelf on the ſummit of the mountain, while the trumpeter, remaining behind, ſhall blow: and the enemy may thus be perſuaded, that a reinforcement is there concealed. They,

who

who ſhall have been left behind, ſeeing that their companions are purſued, ſhall ſhew themſelves ſometimes on one ſide, and ſometimes on the other, as if they were not the ſame men, and ſhall appear to leave the place to ſee what happens: they may alſo fire two or three times, as if to warn a body behind them of the approach of an enemy: but when they ſhall ſee the patrole coming up to them, they ſhall march off before hand, eſpecially if theſe white horſes ſhould happen not to be ſo good as the others. If this ſtratagem ſhould not ſucceed, and the enemy ſtill continue the purſuit, the officer may make his men go about, one on one ſide, and another on the other, appointing them a place for rallying. Such patroles ſhould never

run

run away, but ſtay at each defile or bridge, that the bad horſes may gain ground, and the others recover their breath. Thoſe, on the contrary, of the enemy who purſue, muſt continually be kept out of breath, and not allowed a moment of reſt. As ſoon as they ſhall approach the defiles and bridges, the retreat muſt be made without any delay: let them be in a continual progreſs, that they may not have any opportunity of giving reſt to their horſes. If, in theſe rencounters, one paſſes in villages, or on bridges, and there is no cloſe purſuit from the enemy, the bridges may be pulled down, and they, who ſhall be the beſt mounted, are to ſtop the entrance into the villages with beams, wood, or any thing they ſhall be able to get in a

hurry:

hurry: the beſt mounted ſhall not fail to follow, after ſtopping the enemy at all events. The officer is to do his utmoſt to prevent any of his troops from being taken unſeaſonably, and through his neglect; becauſe, in the light horſe, there is every day a diminution, and though it is very eaſy to get men, it is very difficult to get well-trained huſſars: the officer is to take particular care that his men do not ſtop in any village, before inns, or elſewhere, but he ſhall make them punctually execute the orders which he has received.

When an officer is ſent upon ſuch expeditions, he is to avoid, with the greateſt care, all the villages, though his van-guard ſhould have ſearched them:

them: but, if he cannot avoid them, he is not, as I have already ſaid, to linger in them, but to cauſe all the houſes, barns, and ſtables of the peaſants to be ſearched, leſt the enemy ſhould be concealed in them: for it happens very often, that the enemy thus let the patroles paſs, to cut off their retreat, and attack them from behind with advantage.

Two men are to be poſted to guard the defiles and bridges, which are to be paſſed and repaſſed: if the officer go forward, and the enemy be hidden ſomewhere, with an intention of cutting off his retreat, theſe two men are to give notice of it to their detachment, by ſeveral ſhots from a piſtol, if they cannot do it otherwiſe, and

then to retire. For the ſecurity of the officer's retreat, it would be neceſſary that he had thought of it before, and taken his meaſures with ſuch foreſight, as not to be conſtrained to retire by the ſame way: he ſhould know how to paſs by other bridges, or by tracks which he ſhall find in his map; notwithſtanding the long by-ways, which he may thus be forced to traverſe, he will avoid the approach of the enemy, and ſecure the ſafety of his detachment. The ſame conduct is to be obſerved, when the rounds are made towards the enemy along a river: all the bridges and the other paſſes are then to be occupied, each by two men; that if the enemy would paſs them, for the purpoſe of cutting off the retreat of the detachment, notice

may

may be given by the firing of piſtols, and other means be employed of timely prevention. There is no harm in thus weakening a detachment, as in theſe rencounters fighting is not intended: it is ſufficient for the officer to ſave his men and their horſes, and to let them ſee that he can extricate them from a bad ſituation: by theſe means, he is certain of gaining their confidence and goodwill: the men left on the bridges, and in the paſſes, can never be in danger, becauſe, at the approach of the enemy, they will always have time enough to retire.

The officer, detached for that purpoſe, ſhall do his utmoſt to execute all that is committed to him, and ſhall not be contented with a ſuperficial diſ-

charge of his orders. If he be to reconnoitre a camp of the enemy, he ſhall endeavour to diſcover the poſition of it; on which ſide of it there may be rivers; and if near the rivers there are marſhes, woods, mountains, or villages: he muſt know of how many lines the camp conſiſts; the extent of the front; the ſituation of the quarters; where the carts of ammunition and artillery are ſtationed; whether the camp is intrenched or not; which are the villages ſituated before the front, on the wings, and behind it; whether the enemy have any advanced poſts, of what troops they conſiſt, and where they are poſted; whether the towns and villages near the camp are obliged to make proviſions, and, if they are, of what kind and in what quantity the

proviſions

proviſions are to be. The general ſhall queſtion him reſpecting all theſe articles, and will regulate his meaſures by the information that is given.

Nothing is more ſhameful to an officer, than to relate falſe particulars; and to excuſe himſelf by ſaying, that he has been miſtaken, or has not ſeen well: on thoſe occaſions every thing muſt be very carefully examined; and one muſt have a very accurate ſight, and be provided with a good perſpective glaſs. Let nothing intimidate the officer on his duty; let him ſurmount every thing; diſcourſe about what he ſhall ſee, with ſuch as have already ſerved in ſeveral wars, and aſk their opinions: he will thus be certain of what he is to ſay; and will not take an hundred horſes for a regiment, or

a flock of ſheep for a body of infantry: miſtakes which have often been made.

If the officer, ſent on this ſervice, ſhould be obliged to go far to procure intelligence, and ſuſpect that he may be out for four, or five, or more days, he ſhall take the watch word for as long as he thinks that he may be abſent: he muſt alſo provide himſelf with oats for his horſes, and with a ſupply of bread and victuals for his ſoldiers, that he may not be under the neceſſity of entering villages; which he ſhould paſs only in the night, in order that he may not be diſcovered.

He muſt avoid, as long as it is poſſible, taking a guide in an unknown and hoſtile country: he is to direct

his

his march, in this ſituation, with the help of a good map; and, ſpeaking as little himſelf as poſſible with the inhabitants, he muſt never allow his ſoldiers to diſcourſe with them; leſt by their means the enemy diſcover his detachment: he ſhall take with him people who know the language of the country, that he may thus more eaſily paſs for a friend, and may learn what he wiſhes to know, without being known.

If he be forced to march near the enemy, he ſhall hide himſelf in the day time among thick buſhes; and, remaining there without fire, ſend his men and horſes to reſt: he is to keep only a few poſts on the ſide of the enemy, or round the place, where he

has concealed himſelf in the buſhes: if the plain can be diſcovered from the top of a tree, he is to order a man to climb it; if the poſts perceive ſomething of the enemy, they muſt not fire, but give notice of it by whiſtling, or clapping of their hands, that if the enemy would directly fall upon them, the detachment may retire in ſecreſy.

All the people, who may approach while the detachment is thus concealed, ſuch as wood-cutters, peaſants, women, and children, are to be detained as long as the ſoldiers ſhall be hidden, even till dark: they are not to be ſpoken with, or only, perhaps, queſtioned, concerning the ſeveral roads, that theſe people may not diſcover

cover the route which is to be taken: in other reſpects, they are to be well treated, and when you intend to proceed, you ſhall diſmiſs them quietly, and loſe ſight of them before you begin your march.

CHAP. III.

Of Night Patroles.

IF an officer be ſent by night with a ſmall detachment to reconnoitre whether the enemy is arrived at a certain place and to diſcover their force, or for ſome other intereſting object, he may, according to the number of his men, form a ſmall van-guard on the plain; but the van-guard muſt not withdraw from the troop, by whom they are always to be directed, ſo far as to loſe ſight of them: the front and ſide patroles

muſt

muſt always endeavour to hear a noiſe, if there be any, ſuch as the barking of dogs, or the motion of feet, becauſe that is more eaſy to them, than to the troop, who are prevented from hearing by the trotting of their horſes.

The detachment is to ſtop often; liſten whether it is poſſible to hear ſomething; diſmount from their horſes, and lay themſelves down and hearken, becauſe, in this manner, one can hear afar off in the night time.

If the barking of many dogs be heard, it will intimate that there are people in the neighbourhood. The officer, who commands the detachment, ſhall go himſelf to the part whence

whence the ſound comes, or ſhall ſend one of his beſt men to examine, as quietly as poſſible and with great caution, what is there paſſing.

If a noiſe be heard in a village, the officer muſt go gently to the firſt houſe, in which is a light, and giving his horſe to one of his fellow officers, ſhall leap over the hedges, paſs into the gardens and yards, and come near to the houſe, though it were by creeping along upon his hands: he ſhall then look through the window, and, if he do not perceive any of the ſoldiers of the enemy, ſhall knock at the door ſoftly, and call out the maſter of the houſe; whom he is to queſtion civilly, reſpecting the number and the quality of the troops who

may

may be in that village and neighbourhood: he is, then, to return as quietly as poſſible, and to relate to the detachment what he has heard and ſeen.

If he obſerve any fire, he muſt approach it without noiſe, and if he cannot on horſeback, he is to diſmount, paſs by concealed ways, and examine whether they are troops of the enemy, and remark, as much as poſſible, of what ſort, and in what numbers they are: but if they are peaſants or ſhepherds, he is to enquire of them the neceſſary particulars: if the detachment be in an unknown country, he muſt always take a guide, and beware of him: if his probity is not well known, he

muſt

muſt be bound, and thus ſhew the roads: he muſt alſo be threatened to be killed, if he lead the detachment to the enemy.

As long as the detachment is in the plain, there muſt be continual ſide patroles: but if it paſs through a very thick and dark wood, the patroles are to be called back: if the wood be pretty clear, it will be ſufficient to make them draw ſo near, as not to be out of ſight.

The officer ſhall order two clever men to walk forwards, and ſhall recommend it to them not to go too far: in theſe caſes he muſt ſtop, liſten, ſtrike on a tree, whiſtle, or give other ſignals, by which it may be known

that

that the men detached are not gone too far from the troop, and expoſed to fall into the hands of the enemy.

When, during the night, an officer is at the van-guard of a more conſiderable detachment, he muſt order thoſe, whom he ſhall ſend forward, to be followed by other men, who, one by one are to form a chain, reaching from one troop to the other; theſe men are cloſely to follow one another, and not to part any way.

He muſt, in the firſt inſtance, take care to poſt a man at each croſs road or bye path, to ſhew the laſt the way which the firſt has taken; and then he muſt prevent his men from ſleeping; for it often happens that the ſleepers

ſtopping

ſtopping in the way, thoſe, who follow, think that they are to halt; they do ſo, and the conſequence is a great confuſion.

When patroles are made by night, the greateſt ſilence muſt be obſerved: there muſt be neither dogs, nor white horſes, nor ſuch as may by their neighing betray the patrole: every man muſt be expreſsly forbidden to ſpeak, ſtrike a fire, or ſmoke; all of which will obſtruct the correct hearing of what paſſes, and a trifle may diſcover every thing. If the officer wants to know the time, he may, under his cloak, light a little tinder, and paſs it over his watch on all ſides; this will be ſufficient for his purpoſe,

 and

and he muſt then immediately extinguiſh it.

It will be proper to give the men of the night patrole cloaks of a dark colour, to cover the yellow and white buff ſkins of our carabines, which might be remarked a great way off.

If, during the night-time, the men of the patrole are obliged to paſs over bridges, or through defiles, they are not to paſs them without previouſly examining the two banks; or without being aſſured that there is nothing to be feared from the enemy in thoſe places: and, if they would retreat the ſame way, there ſhould be a man or two left to give notice by firing, in caſe the enemy mean to attack the

detach-

detachment behind, that they may retreat by another way.

If, during the night, it be necessary to march near the posts of the enemy, or to pass before them, the flank, exposed to the attack, should be, from one distance to another, covered with small troops, composed each of six men at least; that the approaching enemy may not prevent their march, nor rout them; these small troops may always oppose an obstacle to the enemy's advance.

If the detachment be likewise composed of light infantry and chasseurs, they are to be sent up and down the wood to cover the cavalry.

If, in the night, the detachment be in want of forage, there may be a few ſoldiers, acquainted with the language of the country, ſent into a village to obtain ſome and to carry it to the detachment, without committing the leaſt exceſs, leſt the inhabitants ſhould learn where the detachment is poſted, and what is it's ſtrength. By good diſcipline the enemy may often be prevented from knowing the proximity of the detachment.

If, in the night, we perceive the enemy in march before they ſee us, we ſhould endeavour to know their force, which may be known by the trotting of their horſes: there muſt be

be then truſty men ſent immediately to the camp, the quarters, and all the advanced poſts, to give them notice of it, that they may be on their guard againſt any ſurprize: the retreat muſt likewiſe be ſilent, and when we are certain that the enemy goes ſtraight to the camp, or towards the quarters, notice muſt be immediately ſent to the commanding officer: but, if we are betrayed, we may fire ſeveral times with piſtols, join the advanced guards, and, when united, endeavour to keep the enemy at bay, till the troops of the camp, or the quarters be ready to bring us aſſiſtance.

The enemy, having a mind to make an attempt, often endeavours

to annoy the posts, because they need but shew themselves as frequently as they please to tire us. Notice of their arrival is to be secretly given to the camp, quarters, or advanced guards: they will not then be able to execute their project of spreading the alarm; or of attacking us by surprize: but will, on the contrary, be routed and beaten. This measure will, besides, afford the advantage of avoiding irregular firing, alarm and crying; which only cause terror, and interrupt command and good order: the men asleep in the camp, or in their quarters, know not what occasions such an alarm: they are even ignorant of the presence of the enemy, and commonly run away one by one in the dark, without repairing to their squadrons, or to the places of ren-

devous appointed for ſuch an exigency.

The enemy very often approach on a full gallop to ſurprize the patroles, and the advanced guards; and fall, on a ſudden, upon the quarters. On this occaſion, there is no time to be loſt in giving notice of the attack; and it is very advantageous to fire continually, and to retreat ſideways, without going ſtraight to the camp, or to the quarters: the enemy will purſue in the dark, and may thus be withdrawn to a diſtance from the camp: by this management, great deeds may be ſucceſsfully performed; but it is highly neceſſary to tell the men what they are to do, and how,

under ſuch circumſtances, they muſt behave.

If it be poſſible to diſcover the arrival of the enemy, in time and ſecretly, the reſult will be greatly advantageous, becauſe the men can be ordered on horſeback, and poſted where the enemy is to appear: to deceive theſe more completely, the advanced guards are to be left at their poſts, and ordered to retreat, ſideways, to where the main body is be ſtationed: they ſhall then retire, keeping up a continual fire; and when they approach the poſts, they are to ride on further full ſpeed: then the enemy will purſue them into their quarters, and they will be aſſiſted by troops, left at the entrance of the village.

village. When the enemy, who enter, ſeparate and begin to plunder, the officer, ſeeing himſelf ſtronger at his poſt, is to fall upon them, who ſhall be at the entrance of the village: and ſhould he be even weaker, he will attack them with advantage; diſconcert their enterprize; and acquire honor. The van-guard, who has drawn the enemy on, is to go back immediately, and fall upon thoſe who are ſcattered about in the village: theſe will certainly make no reſiſtance and only think of eſcaping by flight, if they ſee that their companions are beaten: it will then be very eaſy to take priſoners; but, if it be known that the enemy are much ſtronger and that there is nothing to be done with them, the troop, who have thus concealed

them-

themſelves, ſhall retreat quietly, and ſideways from the enemy. If the officer, commanded to go the rounds, has any chaſſeurs or infantry in his troop, he ſhall detach ſome men of the patrole ſideways, as long as he ſhall be in the plain, as it has been ſaid before; but as ſoon as he approaches the wood, he muſt leave only two men forward, and then order the infantry to follow in two or ſeveral platoons according to it's force: after theſe the cavalry is to come, who ſhall alſo leave two men behind to be the rear-guard: the infantry muſt go the rounds ſideways, following the detachment; becauſe it is more eaſy for them than for the cavalry to get into the paths and buſhes. If the firing of a piſtol be heard, or ſomething of

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the enemy be diſcovered, the infantry ſhall immediately retire, and poſt themſelves on the right and the left along the road, yet without facing one another; but they ſhall place themſelves at certain diſtances, that the two men at the head, on their being aſſaulted, may have the way open, ſo that the advancing enemy may be ſaluted and driven away. If the enemy be repelled by the fire of the infantry, he muſt be purſued by the horſe, and ſome good advantage may be gained; but, if the horſe be repelled, they muſt paſs through the infantry which is to ſupport them: the whole detachment being forced to retreat, the foot will be the rear-guard; and the patroles in the woods, and

and the horſe ſhall do the ſame in the plain.

If the officer perceive that he is purſued with a cavalry ſtronger than his own, it will not be amiſs to form his infantry into three, and his cavalry into two troops; and to put his detachment in a ſtraight line, but always ſo that the foot be on the wings, and the horſe in the centre among the foot: he may alſo place a few men of the infantry, well verſed in their buſineſs, at a diſtance from one another, behind his horſe: in this manner he will always have a ſure retreat, becauſe one will aſſiſt the other.

The foot, as they retreat, may continually fire: being always cloſe to the horſe,

horſe, they will never be equally expoſed: the foot will cover the flanks; and the horſe of the enemy, though of ſuperior force, will not eaſily expoſe themſelves to the fire of the foot: but if, on the contrary, the different troops be ſuffered to act for themſelves, it will often happen that one will abandon the other: forced to fight in the night, they muſt avail themſelves of the dark: if the enemy be preſſing on very hard, there muſt be ſome truſty men ſent to the camp, or the quarters, to aſk for aſſiſtance, to avoid the riſk of loſing all the men.

horse, they will never be equally exposed: the foot will cover the flanks; and the horse of the enemy, though of superior force, will not easily expose themselves to the fire of the foot: but if, on the contrary, the different troops be suffered to act for themselves, it will often happen that one will abandon the other: forced to fight in the night, they must avail themselves of the dark: if the enemy be pressing on very hard, there must be some trusty men sent to the camp, or the quarters, to ask for assistance, to avoid the risk of losing all the men.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Conduct of an Officer at a detached Post.

THE officer, detached with thirty forty or fifty men, on the ſide of a wing of an army or ſome other poſt of the enemy, to obſerve them, or to diſcover a country, if it be not known to him, ſhall previouſly get acquainted with it by his map, and by the relation of thoſe who thoroughly know it: his firſt care is to chooſe a poſition on a mountain, ſurrounded with woods, if

poſſible,

poſſible, from which he may diſcover the enemy, without being ſeen.

If it be night, and the country be hoſtile, he is to reach his ſtation without noiſe; and, avoiding the villages, and not allowing his men to make any fire, he muſt obſerve the greateſt caution not to be ſeen by any body. At the break of day, he ſhall ſet poſts on foot, on the declivity of the mountain: behind trees or buſhes, poſts on horſeback may examine afar off all that paſſes on the ſide of the enemy: if, in this manner, the officer cannot diſcover what he deſires, he ſhall order men to climb up the loftieſt trees, and ſhall require a minute explanation of what they may diſcover: if it be poſſible for him to ſee what paſſes in the

camp

camp, or at ſome important poſts, he ſhall write it down, and note the time when it occurs, that he may be able in the evening to give an exact account to the commanding officer.

As this detachment is to keep concealed as long as poſſible, it will be neceſſary to provide the men with victuals and the horſes with forage, at leaſt for three days; after which the detachment is commonly to be relieved; but the officer, knowing all the avenues, will have no objection to remain. The new detachment is to be brought in the night, with the greateſt precaution, as has been ſaid before, by a man of the old detachment, who may perfectly well know the place, where the officer ſhall be on the fol-

lowing night: in this manner he may for ſome time obſerve the enemy, without being diſcovered.

As ſoon as the officer ſhall perceive that any chance has betrayed him, he is to redouble all his cares: in the day time, he ſhall not abandon his firſt poſt; but as ſoon as it is dark, he is to chooſe another place in the environs, and there paſs the night. When he is to go there, he muſt not let any one, even of his own diviſion, be informed of it; from that place, he ſhall ſend patroles forward, to the right and left, and all round his poſt, to cover the country. Before daylight, or about the morning twilight, he ſhall abandon that poſt, for fear of being ſurprized, and that he may be able to fix

himſelf

himſelf in it for ſeveral nights following: in the day time he ſhall take his firſt poſition, from which he may have fully diſcovered the enemy.

Thus he muſt always act; and he alone is to know the place where he ſhall paſs the next day, or the following night: he ſhall change his poſition in the night as often as he thinks proper, and chuſe ſometimes one place and ſometimes another; but his choice ought always to enable him to diſcharge the commiſſion which has been given to him.

To provide for the contingency of his detachment being purſued and diſperſed by the enemy, he ſhall appoint, before hand, a place for rallying to-

wards the camp and head quarters, with the precautions mentioned on the ſubject of the night patroles, of ſecreſy and change of poſts: the enemy wanting to attempt ſomething againſt them, will be obliged to look after them, and thus will make known his deſigns.

The chief end of an officer, thus detached, being only to obſerve the enemy, and to cover the country, which he has reconnoitred, he muſt not think of getting booty, or of taking priſoners, but muſt dexterouſly execute his orders, for fear of betraying himſelf; of being repelled, and of ſeeing his enterprize miſcarry: he ought only, as it were, to get ſecretly round the enemy; in the day time,

not

not to ſhew himſelf to the inhabitants, and ſtill leſs to be a burden to them; for in this caſe they will endeavour to diſcover him, and to have him driven away from the country.

It is true, that ſuch an officer will have much trouble and fatigue to undergo, but, at the ſame time, if he diſcharge his commiſſion properly, he will acquire honor: he is to cover the country, as has been ſaid, with a few men: and, by effecting this purpoſe, he will ſecure a great advantage to the army. All the rules, pointed out for the rear-guards and patroles, are to be obſerved on this occaſion, provided the officer knows how to put them into practice.

not to draw himself to the inhabitants, and that he is to be a burden to them; for in this case they will endeavour to discover him, and to have him driven away from the country.

It is true, that such an officer will have much trouble and fatigue to undergo; but, at the same time, if he discharge his commission properly, he will acquire honour: he is to cover the country, as has been said, with a few men; and, by effecting this purpose, he will secure a great advantage to the army. All the rules, points of war for the rear-guards and parties are to be observed on this occasion, provided the officer knows how to put them into practice.

CHAP. V.

How an Officer is to act when he is sent to take Prisoners.

THE taking of prisoners may be done both by day and night, in four several ways, according to the ideas of each officer, and the different situation of the country: the thing in itself is not difficult; but it is of consequence for a commanding officer, or a general, who can discover nothing of the enemy but by spies, or other similar means.

The rules, above recommended in the article concerning the patrole, are here alſo to be followed in the day time.

The officer ſhall walk alone up to ſome hill, and ſhall leave his horſe to the care of one of his party. If the hill be not full of brambles, he ſhall be cautious not to be diſtinguiſhed by any mark of his rank, or even his profeſſion, by which he might be known: he may ſtoop, pretending to till the ground, as if he were a peaſant: he is thus to look every where, without apparently taking notice of any thing. If he ſee flying ſoldiers, or a detachment of the enemy equal to his own, he ſhall on a ſudden fall upon them, and take priſoners: in the firſt

ſurprize,

ſurprize, he ſhall inquire of them about what it is neceſſary for him to know, promiſing to give them liberty on their telling him the truth; and threatening them with blowing out their brains, ſhould they deceive him, or refuſe to ſpeak: he muſt not, however, believe every thing which they may relate; but muſt diſtinguiſh, as accurately as he can, what is true from what is falſe, for fear of haſtily giving no very juſt account, and of thus bringing reproaches upon himſelf.

On ſuch an occaſion, the officer is to have much patience, and not to be tired of waiting, leſt he diſpatch the buſineſs too quickly, and fall into the ſnare which may be laid for him.

If,

If, when he is thus poſted, he obſerve men advancing towards him from the enemy, he ſhall ſend a man alone through by-paths to meet and queſtion them; for if theſe be parties, who have views upon him, and the man be ſent too openly to get intelligence, the detaehment will be betrayed.

Every means in general muſt here be uſed, which can only be ſuggeſted by the ingenuity, and preſence of mind of the officer.

In the dark, the ſame rule is to be obſerved, which was given before in the article of night patroles. The officer ſhall watch the advanced guards of the enemy, in order to take ſome

of

of their patroles: if he fail in this object, he ſhall approach the advanced guards, without noiſe, as nearly as he can by favour of the night; and as ſoon as they challenge him, he ſhall fall upon them with the utmoſt expedition, and carry off all who may fall into his hands.

If the officer among his men can find any who underſtand the language of the country or of the enemy, he ſhall ſend them before towards the videts: they ſhall then go and declare themſelves deſerters; and, whilſt they are giving an account of common and indifferent things, the detachment may approach as cloſely as they pleaſe.

When

When there is an expedition to be undertaken, the officer muſt take with him truſty men: it very often happens that the braveſt ſoldier acts like a coward, from the fear of loſing his money: when the officer, therefore, knows that any huſſars or dragoons of his diviſion, have ſome about them, he ought to perſuade them, before they march, to depoſit it in the regiment's cheſt; and then to ſet them at eaſe, by giving them a receipt for the ſum.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

How an Officer is to attack the Cavalry of the Enemy.

IF it happen that an officer ſhould be detached with thirty, forty, or fifty horſe, to go the rounds, or for any other intent; and that, in his way, he ſhould meet cuiraſſiers or dragoons of the enemy, he is to do his utmoſt to conceal his force from them; and, in the beginning, he muſt ſhew himſelf only with a few men, to obſerve the number, as well as the countenance of the enemy; and

though

though they be ſtronger by a half than he, this conſideration ſhould not prevent him from attempting a bold action.

It is his duty to judge whether they come from a diſtance, and whether, by the length of the way, their horſes are weakened: he ſhall duly examine whether they have their port-manteaus and their uſual burden; whether the road, which they traverſe, be good or bad; whether the ground be marſhy; whether the horſes can paſs it; whether the land be firm, and there be a plain or a defile; whether they may be ſurrounded or not: he muſt diſcover all this as quickly as poſſible, that, by keeping concealed or ſhewing himſelf only at a diſtance

with

with thoſe few men, he may take the meaſures he ſhall think proper. If the officer perceive that the cavalry of the enemy march in a country, where he cannot attack them to advantage, he muſt let them paſs quietly: yet he ſhall ſtay at a certain diſtance from them, and always with a few men, keeping the others concealed and in a poſition to attack, if the enemy ſhould arrive at a place ſuited to his enterprize: then he ſhall quickly divide his corps into four, five, or ſix troops, and attack the adverſary on the weakeſt ſide. The officer muſt certainly know in theſe circumſtances how to form a correct judgment: he muſt know firſt the capacity of the officer of the enemy, and, remarking the countenances of his men, muſt determine

termine from them what advantage may be gained.

The chief views of an officer, in this ſituation, ſhould be to annoy the horſe, to draw them into a marſhy place, from which they cannot eaſily retire; and to force them to make various evolutions, all of which will tend to put the troops of the enemy into confuſion.

He ſhall attack on every ſide, making them cry quarter; but, from the beginning, he ſhall diſarm them all, and cauſe the horſes, which he ſhall take, to be killed, till he has completely beaten the enemy, and put them to flight: then he ſhall permit and order the taking of priſoners.

All

All that the officer of the enemy's cavalry will be able to do is, according to circumſtances, either to ſend troops to meet our's; or to wait for our attack. In the firſt contingency, there muſt be ſome troops ſent to meet and repel the enemy briſkly towards their own body; and, at the ſame time, the remaining part of the detachment ſhall attack with dreadful cries all at once, and on every ſide: but in the ſecond, the enemy are to be ſurrounded, and briſkly fired on: they will, then, only be able to make an evolution upon the line againſt thoſe, who ſhall attempt to attack them behind; in this caſe, advantage muſt be taken of the opportunity; and they muſt be immediately attacked. But if the officer of the ene-

my be a clever man, and well verſed in the military art, when he ſees but a few men oppoſed to him, he will immediately take ſuch a poſition as ſhall cover the back of his detachment, and not ſuffer it to be ſurrounded; or attacked otherwiſe than in front: it will then be very difficult, not to ſay impoſſible, to attempt the leaſt thing againſt them.

The beſt ſtep would be to go to a diſtance from them, and to let them march; but always to keep them in view, till a favourable occaſion, as has been ſaid before, ſhall preſent itſelf; and then it may be poſſible to execute the ſcheme, which has been concerted.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

How an Officer is to act against a detachment of Hussars, equal to his own.

IF the officer meet a detachment of huſſars as ſtrong as his own, ſucceſs will favour him who has the beſt ſoldiers and horſes; who attacks with the greateſt fury, and ſword in hand falls upon the enemy, after having ſuſtained, without diſorder, the firſt fire: there are, however, advantages which may be uſed in the open field to obtain, with more certainty, the

object of our aim. If, for inſtance, the detachment conſiſt of 40 men, the officer may ſet 25 on the firſt, and 15 on the ſecond line, to preſent to the enemy a longer front; but this arrangement muſt be effected ſecretly. The ſecond row is afterwards to be ſo diſpoſed, that the two firſt files may directly march on their chief file; and it will then appear that all the files are complete. The enemy, conceiving the detachment to be ſtronger than his own, will heſitate to attack it: in this poſition, the men muſt be injoined to pay a due attention to their officer's command; and then, riding on a briſk trot, the files, I ſuppoſe, ſhall be ordered to keep cloſe on the right, that they may take the enemy on the left: if the

enemy

enemy do not perceive the manœuvre, they will at firſt be ſurprized, and then eaſily beaten.

But if they ſhould remark it, they will make an evolution on the left, and by that movement avoid being thus ſurprized. When this is the caſe, five or ſix files of the left wing muſt be immediately broken, (but not till the men have been informed of it;) the one on the right, and the other on the left ſhall then attack the enemy at once, ſword in hand, and with dreadful ſhrieks: in this manner the enemy will be thrown into confuſion, and defeated.

CHAP. VIII.

How an Officer is to behave in a great Action.

THE officer appointed with a troop or a platoon to cover the body or regiment, when it is about to be drawn into a line, (but there is commonly more than one officer appointed for that purpoſe,) ſhall direct his ſight as much towards the enemy, as on the troop which he is to cover: he ſhall ſend flying ſoldiers againſt the enemy,

who, by continually firing, will prevent them from attempting any thing againſt the corps, or regiment: at the ſame time he muſt attend to all the motions, which may take place behind him, never abandoning the regiment, and taking all the poſitions which he ſhall ſee them take. As ſoon as he ſhall hear the drum beat for returning or marching, he muſt aſſemble all his men as faſt as poſſible; and return to his regiment by ways which ſhall be left open to him.

But if he only cover another body of cavalry, he ſhall place himſelf on the neareſt wing, aſſiſt in the attack, and, if he ſee that the enemy attempt the leaſt thing on the flank, he ſhall

cover

cover that body; and, on the enemy's giving ground, he ſhall do his utmoſt to route them completely. If the enemy would rally, he ſhall prevent them by firing continually, and following them as cloſely as poſſible: yet he is always to look behind him, to ſee if he be ſuſtained; leſt by going too far he expoſe himſelf to a reverſe.

CHAP. IX.

How an Officer, who is to cover the Second Line, is to behave.

I Suppoſe, that in the firſt line there are but ſix ſquadrons, and, to cover them in the ſecond, only four: theſe laſt ſhall always ſtay directly behind the right wing of the firſt line, and of the ſix ſquadrons. If the enemy fall upon the flank of the ſecond line, the commanding officer ſhall prevent it with the ſquadrons; and, if he ſee that, during the

the attack, the enemy would ſurprize the firſt line on the flank, he ſhall run to it's aſſiſtance: he muſt, however, take care not to expoſe the flank of the ſecond line by this manœuvre. If the firſt line make the enemy give ground and be blended with them, the ſecond ſhall go to it's ſupport: but if the ſecond line be compoſed only of horſe, who could not ſuſtain the firſt quick enough, the officer is to follow it with his troop; and he ſhall continually remain cloſe with his men to receive the priſoners, in order that thoſe before may always diſcharge their duty.

What has here juſt been ſaid concerns the officers of the two wings of the ſecond line.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

Conduct of an Officer when he is in the Line and Main Body of the Army.

IT is on a detachment of this kind that moſt generally depends the ſafety of the army; and conſequently the officer, who commands it, cannot be too attentive to the ſecurity of the body, which is behind him. I ſuppoſe a caſe when an officer has only light horſe under his command, without any infantry. If an officer, thus cir-

circumſtanced, be ordered out to a village with thirty or forty horſe, as ſoon as he is arrived he ſhall take with him the third or fourth part of his men, and go the rounds as far as he can through the whole country, even to the poſts of the enemy; and ſhall reconnoitre all the buſhes, villages, and vallies around: in the mean while he ſhall conceal the remaining part of his detachment behind houſes; or, if he fear an attack, he may take with him the whole.

When he goes ſuch rounds, he ſhall take with him a man of the village on horſeback, to enquire about the country which lies before him; where and how the enemy are poſted, and by which way they might advance on him:

he

he ſhall likewiſe diligently examine the country in his map, to acquire a thorough knowledge of it: he ſhall then poſt his videts in ſuch a manner, that they may diſcover the whole country which lies on the ſide of the enemy, as has been mentioned in ſpeaking of the advanced guards: he ſhall, likewiſe, ſend up to the ſteeple one or two of his men with ſome peaſants, with orders to obſerve every thing, and to give notice, by the ringing of a bell, if they diſcover any thing of the enemy: if there be no ſteeple in the village, he ſhall place them on the loftieſt houſe. After all the neceſſary arrangements, he may ſend half of his men into the neareſt houſes of the peaſants, ordering them to unbridle, unſaddle, and dreſs half

of

of their horſes: after theſe have eaten and are again ſaddled, the ſame may be done with regard to the reſt; but if the enemy be in the neighbourhood, and any thing be feared, the horſes muſt be tied with the bridle, and hidden behind the houſes; and in that ſtate be given their food.

It is neceſſary likewiſe to have a foot-guard, which ſhall continually have their eyes fixed on the videts, to give notice of their ſmalleſt motions.

The officer muſt alſo place a guard at both ends of the village, chiefly in the buſhes and on the declivity of ſome hill, to cover his wings, and for fear of being attacked and cut off.

It

It is in general of the greateſt importance to ſecure not only the front, but alſo the wings and the rear, eſpecially in the night, though there ſhould be even in the neighbourhood poſts of the ſame army. The officer ſhall often ſend out of the poſts of the videts patroles of two or three men, who ſhall endeavour to aſcend the hills, which had not been occupied on account of their diſtance, and to diſcover from thence the motions of the enemy: he may, likewiſe command theſe patroles, and, taking ſometimes fifteen, twenty, or thirty men, ſhew himſelf to the enemy, to induce them to believe him to be ſtronger than he really is; and he will thus, alſo, gain the advantage of becoming better acquainted with the country

and position of the enemy. In the day, he shall send half of his men to rest, and order their horses to be unbridled; but the other half shall be kept up, with their horses bridled and saddled: as soon as it grows dark, he shall send patroles beyond the videts; and shall go himself, and endeavour to discover the changes which may have taken place in the position of the enemy, and then he shall send an account of what he has observed in writing to the commander in chief.

As soon as it is dark, the officer shall draw his posts a little backwards; and if they be situated on hills, he shall place them below and behind those ascents; because, in the night, it is more easy to perceive the approach-

approaching enemy by looking up, than by looking down.

If there be near the village woods or hollow roads, which in the day might be guarded by videts, but which are loſt to the ſight in the night, then the poſts muſt be advanced: if the officer have bridges between him and the enemy, he may there likewiſe poſt videts, but he ought to order them back in the night, and to direct that the timber be taken from the bridges.

He ſhall ſtop up all the great iſſues of the village, as well as he can, with waggons, large branches of trees and poles; and he ſhall there poſt a guard of peaſants, whom he ought to

viſit often, leſt they ſhould firſt attempt to open the way: he ſhall ſhew to his men, who are poſted out of the village, two or three ways to it, which are unknown to the enemy, and which his men muſt obſerve with great attention that they may be able to find them during the night, for the purpoſes, if neceſſary, of retreat: the officer, throughout the night, ſhall ſend ſmall patroles to viſit both the videts and the chain; and to examine, at the neareſt diſtance poſſible, what can be diſcovered of the approach of the enemy.

About twelve in the night, prudence requires that the officer, as well as his men, ſhould be up: were he to perceive that the enemy meant to

diſturb

diſturb him, he muſt follow the rules which have been laid down in the article of the night patroles. In the morning before the break of day, he ſhall order the horſes to be ſaddled and bridled, and his men to mount: if the officer think fit to change his poſition during the night, he ought to give notice of it beforehand to the detached poſts, that they may find him in the dark.

He ſhall diſpatch either to the commander in chief, or to the officer, by whoſe orders he has been ſent with the detachment, an account of all that has happened during the night: and if he perceive any motions of the enemy, which indicate their deſign to advance, he ſhall then be more vigi-

lant and active than ever: he ſhall conſtantly remain in the fields with his men, and act according to the regulations ſpecified in the article of the advanced guards.

As ſoon as there is a little daylight, the videts ſhall go quietly up the hills, and look round them: in the mean while ſome patroles ſhall be ſent forward to viſit the ſurrounding buſhes, and diſcover if there be any party of the enemy in ambuſcade: in this occupation they ſhall be engaged till full daylight; a precaution which is particularly neceſſary in cloudy weather: they may then ſpread themſelves, and cover the whole front. If all be quiet, the officer ſhall mount his horſe, and go out for intelligence,

ſending

ſending his patroles as forward as poſſible: during this time the whole detachment muſt be mounted ready for every event.

When the patroles are returned, the officer ſhall ſend to the commander in chief an account of all that he may have diſcovered: he ſhall then poſt again ſome ſoldiers on the ſteeple or loftieſt houſe, and order half the horſes to be unſaddled, unbridled and dreſſed: he ſhall endeavour, eſpecially in an hoſtile country, to hinder the inhabitants, leſt they ſhould betray him, from going in a direction to the enemy: he may likewiſe intimate to the villages, that he will put any peaſant paſſing the

advanced poſts on the ſide of the enemy to death: but if the officer could procure a faithful man to be ſent beyond the advanced poſts, he ſhould do it without delay, and without regard to the ſum demanded for the ſervice; becauſe more diſcoveries may be expected from ſuch a ſcout, than from the patroles. The officer ſhall endeavour to gain this intelligence both in the morning and evening; and, conducting himſelf according to the information which he receives, he ſhall forward an account, of all that paſſes, to his immediate commander.

The rules, in general, which have been laid down before, either for the advanced

advanced guards and patroles, or for the procuring of intelligence by day and night, ſhall be followed here, as they are the true foundation of military ſervice.

CHAP. XI.

Duty of an Officer, detached with twenty, thirty, or forty Men, to guard a Village, situated in the Front, or on the Wings of an Army.

AN officer, being ordered to a known place, ſhall receive from his commanding officer ſufficient information with reſpect to his deſtination; the country, which he is to cover; the place, to which he is to

ſend

ſend his patroles; the poſts of the enemy, which are to be obſerved, and the plan of his retreat to the army, in the event of his being attacked with a ſuperior force.

This officer ſhall perpetually remain in the ſame poſt, unleſs fatigue, and the continual attention which is exacted from him ſhould require his being relieved every twenty-four hours. I ſhall firſt ſpeak of the officer, who is to be detached with light horſe only; and afterwards of him who is to command likewiſe a ſmall troop of infantry. The conduct of the officer on this occaſion, muſt be the ſame as in the circumſtances juſt before mentioned: but as many things are liable to change in the winter time, and eſ-

pecially

pecially the roads, the officer muſt learn how to put into execution the following directions.

As ſoon as he is arrived at his poſt, he ſhall go his rounds, to become acquainted with the country; and for that purpoſe, he ſhall take ſome villager for his guide: he ſhall inform himſelf of every thing which may be neceſſary; but eſpecially he ſhall enquire by what way it may be poſſible to paſs without following the road, when the earth is covered with ſnow. He ſhall attentively obſerve the country, to enable himſelf to take the requiſite precautions, and to cover the moſt dangerous places: he ſhall then ſelect the places in which he is to poſt his guards and his videts; and directions

tions for this purpoſe have already been given in the chapter of the advanced guards: he ſhall likewiſe aſſign to his men the alarm place; but in another chapter we will mention how it muſt be choſen.

It being impoſſible either for men or horſes to remain in the winter, on an extraordinary night-guard, the officer ſhall chooſe for a rallying point, that ſide of the village, where there may be the leaſt danger. He ſhall place his ſoldiers in ſuch of the peaſants houſes as open backwards on the ſide of the alarm place: he ſhall not place them at a diſtance from one another; and he ſhall appoint in each quarter a non-commiſſioned officer to keep the ſoldiers awake during the night.

night. He ſhall fix his quarters in the middle of his ſoldiers; and ſhall poſt before his houſe a centinel, who is to make a noiſe at the firſt ſhot from a piſtol.

If the officer think proper, he may aſſemble all his ſoldiers in his own quarters, and thus hold himſelf prepared for every event.

He muſt not ſuffer any waggons, timber, branches of trees, or any other things which can hinder the quick ſallying of the ſoldiers to obſtruct the ways of the village.

Officers are often induced to believe that they have nothing to fear at their poſts, truſting either to the ſuperiority

of

of their detachment, or to their diſtance from the enemy; but a good officer will never reſign himſelf to ſuch confidence; as it is too often ſeen that this ſpecies of ſecurity preſents the enemy with an occaſion of falling unexpectedly upon the quarters; and that the ſleeping or the careleſs are often beaten by a watchful and prudent enemy: not to be ſurprized, the officer muſt always be upon his guard, as if he were near a vigilant foe who was meditating an attack on him.

No attention muſt be paid to the murmurs of the private ſoldier, who is ſcarcely ever ſatisfied; but the officer muſt endeavour to convince him of the neceſſity of theſe precautions, as the

enemy

enemy always ſeek an opportunity of profiting by the leaſt negligence. If, notwithſtanding his vigilance, ſome misfortune ſhould happen, (which is ſeldom the caſe,) the officer will, at leaſt, be exempt from any cauſe of ſelf-reproach. His chief object, at ſuch a poſt, is to gain time, leſt the enemy ſhould ſurprize the detachment; but he muſt be in a condition to aſſemble his men under arms in the alarm place, that he may oppoſe the enemy, and give the army notice of their arrival.

Patroles muſt be carefully taught how to behave and where they ſhould go; they muſt never be ordered out at regular hours, for fear of their

being watched and carried off by the enemy.

If the enemy ſhould approach our poſts in the day, the officer ſhall advance with a part, or, ſhould it be requiſite, with the whole of his detachment, for the purpoſe of ſuſtaining his advanced guards, and of withdrawing them, if neceſſary, with ſafety. In the night he ſhall ſend ſome ſoldiers againſt the enemy, by the outlets of the roads, which lead, and which ſhould be known only to the advanced guards, in order to ſupport theſe, and to provide for their retreat. He muſt make every poſſible effort to amuſe the enemy, and for this purpoſe, he ſhall avail himſelf of the means which we have already ſuggeſted:

geſted: let him not forget that he is ſtationed at this poſt for the ſafety of the army: he muſt, therefore, be particularly earneſt to repel the enemy, to drive them from his quarter, though they ſhould be ſtronger than he. He ſhall ſend from time to time an exact account to his commander in chief; that he may be ſupported in his poſt by a reinforcement, or protected in his retreat. All the directions, laid down before, for the ſafety of the quarters, vanguards, and patroles, and reſpecting the ſending out for intelligence, are to be followed here.

In very obſcure nights and ſtormy weather, videts ſhall be ordered to go the rounds, by turns, on the right and left hand, towards one another to

cover the diſtance which lies between them, and to prevent any body from creeping ſecretly thither by means of the darkneſs.

If there be any infantry employed in thoſe poſts, they muſt be placed in the houſes the neareſt to the enemy, and muſt occupy all the hedges and outlets of the village, that thoſe, who are ſtationed without, may be ſupported: and ſome guards of infantry ſhall alſo be placed at all thoſe avenues of the village which are ſecured with waggons or with barriers. In the day, the ſentries ſhall be poſted without on eminences, from which they can diſcover the videts; but in the night, they muſt retire behind the barriers: poſts ſhall be placed likewiſe at the

entrances

entrances of the village, which have been either made or kept open.

If the cavalry were obliged to retire through the infantry as ſoon as they have paſſed their poſts, the latter ſhall barricade themſelves, to prevent the enemy from penetrating into the village; they ſhall check them as long as they can; and when they are no longer able to reſiſt, they ſhall repair, through the gardens and yards of the peaſants, to the place of rendezvous, where both the cavalry and infantry ſhall mutually ſuſtain one another: by theſe means it will be eaſy to repulſe the enemy with advantage.

It is moſt neceſſary that the officer commanding this detachment, ſhould

preſerve harmony between the infantry and cavalry: he ſhall eſpecially take care, that the former are abundantly ſupplied with every neceſſary, that not being accuſtomed to live ſo well, they may do their utmoſt to preſerve and defend their good quarters, and hinder the enemy from breaking into them. All the directions laid down before for the ſpies ſhall be followed here, eſpecially during the winter quarters.

CHAP. XII.

How an Officer is to attack a Quarter of Hussars with Cavalry.

IF an officer be desirous of distinguishing himself, even against a superior force, he must attack a quarter of hussars in the following manner: it will offer him the most sure, easy, and agreeable means of obtaining a brilliant success.

To accompliſh his deſign, he muſt endeavour to procure certain and uſeful information from the village, in which the enemy is poſted, and from all the neighbouring places: he muſt diſcover who is the commanding officer of the poſt; whether he has been long in the ſervice, and is poſſeſſed of military knowledge; or whether he is young and ignorant, and unwilling to profit by advice: becauſe an officer of this deſcription will believe himſelf to be ſufficiently ſafe, and will conceive that he is doing as much as is neceſſary, if he poſt only his vanguards, or, at moſt, occupy the avenues and iſſues of the village, with a ſmall guard, and ſend

his

his patroles to the ſame places at the ſtated hours.

The officer muſt likewiſe learn whether the enemy have any aſſurance of a conſiderable reinforcement; for ſome will, perhaps, eſteem it a proof of timidity to aſk for it; they will be negligent of themſelves, through pride, and will loſe themſelves through ſelf-love. It will be neceſſary to know the diſpoſitions of the enemy's officer in his village; on what ſide he has lodged his ſoldiers, and where the alarm place is; what kind of troops he commands; whether choſen men, or taken indiſcriminately from different corps; whether during the night he aſſembles his men, in a place pointed out for that purpoſe; or

leaves

leaves them diſperſed in the quarters; whenand from whence reinforcements, if expected, might come to him; and finally, how the advanced guards are poſted in the day and in the night, the hour when the patroles go their rounds, and the places which are viſited by them.

Having procured all theſe informations, the officer is to make his arrangements for the attack, according to the circumſtances which have induced him to it: this attack may take place either in the day or in the night. I ſhall firſt give inſtructions in caſe the enemy is to be attacked in the day.

If

If the enemy is known to be on his guard during the night, and to have made preparations for his defence at that time, the day ſhall be choſen for the purpoſe of the attack.

In advancing towards the enemy, their vanguard muſt be left on one ſide, at the diſtance obſerved by the patroles on their uſual rounds: it is difficult, not to ſay impoſſible, to do any thing in a flat country, where there are neither woods nor hills; but in a mountainous and buſhy country, theſe directions ſhall be followed.

For example, if the quarters of the enemy be at a great diſtance, the officer ſhall march his troop in the night,

night, or during a thick fog, and poſt them in a village, a thicket, or a little valley near to their quarters: by this ſecret march the patroles of the enemy will be avoided; the troop ſhall then halt in profound ſilence, and wait for day-light, or the time when the patroles of the enemy are returned to their poſts.

The patroles, having made no diſcoveries, will probably after the report made to the officer, be ſent to their quarters. Deeming themſelves far from any danger, they will lay aſide their arms, unſaddle and dreſs their horſes, and, not having ſlept during the night, retire to bed. The vanguard, being now ready, ſhall be ordered to fall, on full gallop, upon the

the outpoſts of the enemy, to prevent them from mounting, or at leaſt to reach the village at the ſame time with them: the vanguard ſhall then fire at the windows, to increaſe the conſternation. The quarter of the officer ſhould be deſcribed to ſome of the moſt alert ſoldiers, who ſhall make towards it with the utmoſt ſpeed, in order to ſeize him, if poſſible, or to hinder him from mounting his horſe: it would be better however, to reach the village without attacking the advanced poſts; becauſe when they ſee the enemy already in the village, they will rather attempt to make their eſcape, than to return to it; and thus their number will be diminiſhed.

The

The officer is to follow at a ſmall diſtance the vanguard with the reſt of his men, whom he ſhall beforehand ſeparate into two parts: one is to ſupport the vanguard, and cut in pieces any of the enemy who may oppoſe them ſingly on horſeback, or who may only ſhow themſelves. Time muſt not be ſpent in taking priſoners, before it is evident that the enemy are no longer able to reſiſt.

The officer ſhall leave the other part of his men cloſe to each other without the village, and if he be the only officer, he ſhall give the command of this body to a non-commiſſioned officer, and ſhall order him to ſend up ſome ſoldiers to the hills, on the left and

right

right hand, to diſcover the reinforcements of the enemy, and give timely notice of their arrival to the detachment. But the officer ſhall ſpeed through the whole village on horſeback, to give the neceſſary orders, and prevent his men from entering, and ſtill more from plundering the houſes; this he ſhall forbid before the attack, and threatening the ſevereſt puniſhments to any neglect of orders, he muſt clearly explain to each in particular what he has to do. He ſhall order all the priſoners to be delivered to the detachment, which is left without the village, and ſhall forbid his men to bring them about with them, as this would obſtruct their taking of others; but he ſhall direct his men, when they deliver their priſoners to

the

the detachment, to get the name of each of them immediately written down by the non-commiſſioned officer, that every one may know his own priſoners after the action. If the ſoldiers do not follow theſe regulations, (and they certainly will not follow them without poſitive orders,) they will loſe their time in taking their priſoners from one place to another, and the officer will be weakened by his own negligence: but, on the contrary, if they deliver the priſoners, as I have juſt mentioned, they will be able to take ſome others.

If the officer has a trumpeter with him, he ſhall leave him out of the the village with the detachment.

The

The officer muſt properly aſcertain the time during which he can prudently ſtop, for fear he ſhould be ſurprized by ſome reinforcement of the enemy; who would infallibly defeat his undertaking, and make him priſoner with his detachment.

When the officer has taken a ſufficient number of priſoners, he muſt re-aſſemble his men by the means of the trumpeter or the non-commiſſioned officers: the priſoners ſhall then be delivered to thoſe who have not the beſt horſes: they ſhall depart the firſt by the neareſt way; and the officer ſhall follow them with the reſt of his troop at a certain diſtance, forming the rear guard.

CHAP. XIII.

How a Quarter of Hussars is to be attacked during the Night.

IF, for reaſons mentioned in the article of the attack during the day, it be reſolved to attack by night, it will be proper to approach the village, as nearly as poſſible, through by-ways, in order to ſhun the grand guards, and to ſurprize the enemy on the rear: and every effort muſt be made to prevent them from re-aſſembling.

The vanguard is firſt to be ſent forward in great ſilence with ſome flying troops, who ſhall advance near the enemy; as ſoon as they perceive that they are diſcovered, they ſhall fall upon them on full gallop; endeavour to mingle with them, prevent their mounting, and enter the village along with them. A ſkilful diviſion of the detachment is to be made before any enterprize is undertaken; and to make this diviſion properly the force of the enemy muſt be taken into conſideration.

Suppoſing that their detachment is compoſed of fifty horſe, and the officer who is to attack has but twenty-five or thirty horſe, the following diviſion

is

is to take place. A non-commiſſioned officer is to be ſent forward with the horſe, who are to compoſe the vanguard. He muſt know the alarm place of the enemy, and endeavour to reach it as ſoon as they: he ſhall diſperſe and kill as many as he can, and take ſome priſoners.

A ſecond diviſion compoſed likewiſe of ten horſes, who are to follow very near to the vanguard, ſhall penetrate into the village with them, ſeparate themſelves immediately, and prevent the enemy from running to their arms, or aſſembling. Soldiers coming out of houſes one by one are to be killed; and, as it has been already ſaid, priſoners are not to be taken, unleſs the

enemy are reduced to an impoſſibility of reſiſting.

A third diviſion of five men following the firſt, ſhall enter the village with them, remain aſſembled, and go to the place where the enemy oppoſe a greater reſiſtance, and where a greater noiſe is heard, in order to ſuſtain the diviſion which is in want of more aſſiſtance.

A fourth diviſion, compoſed likewiſe of five men, is to remain aſſembled in the village at a fixed poſt, in order to receive the priſoners: but if this laſt diviſion ſhould perceive that the enemy is beaten, two or three men ſhall be detached from it, to patrole

through

through the village, to hinder ſome from making their eſcape on foot.

In theſe attacks, the firſt object ſhould be, as it has been before mentioned, to ſurprize the officer's quarter and take him priſoner: the flying troops are to prevent the other ſoldiers from running to their arms and forming themſelves. Being thus ſurprized, they will indeed ſooner try to make their eſcape through the gardens, or to hide themſelves; but in caſe any ſhould aſſemble for the purpoſe of reſiſting, the third diviſion will undoubtedly be ſtrong enough to beat them; the officer being taken priſoner, there will be nobody to give orders, or to aſſemble thoſe who are diſperſed.

Let the officer be present every where, to give the necessary orders; and when his object is accomplished, let him retire in time, as it has been suggested in the article of the attack during the day. When the enemy is attacked by night, it is absolutely necessary to restrain and severely forbid every kind of pillage, because otherwise the soldiers may be induced to forget the chief business, and to commit with impunity base actions, which stain the most brilliant exploits, disgrace the officer, and may render vain an enterprize which has been prosperous till that moment, and precipitate the detachment into the misfortune which was prepared for the enemy. The retreat shall be made as directed

in

in the chapter of the attack in the day.

In night expeditions, it is moſt neceſſary to fix upon a ſign, or a word, by which one may know another: we might, for example, turn the cloak; put on the mantle; tie a piece of white linen round the arm; place on the cap a branch of a tree, eſpecially of an oak; or chooſe a word, to be communicated beforehand to the ſoldiers, by which the party may diſtinguiſh one another in the dark: without theſe precautions the greateſt diſaſters might very often take place.

CHAP. XIV.

Of the Conduct of an Officer when he is to lay a Country under Contribution.

IT is neceſſary that there be no enemy in the country, which the officer is to lay under contribution. The commander in chief will infallibly give him all the neceſſary inſtructions upon the ſubject; and it occurs but ſeldom that an officer is entruſted with the full power of laying a whole country under contribution. He is to ſecure the contribution for his com-

commander in chief, by hoſtages, by threats, and ſometimes by executions. As long as a country does not refuſe to contribute, or to yield what is required, no violence ſhould be employed: and the officer muſt keep his ſoldiers under a ſevere diſcipline: no exceſs of what nature ſoever is to be permitted to them; but he ſhall ſee that they are contented with a reaſonable treatment for themſelves and their horſes. By theſe means the officer of ſuch a detachment will the more certainly accompliſh his purpoſe, and will find the country more able to ſupply him with what is demanded, than, if by violent and unſeaſonable executions, he were to put them under the impoſſibility of doing it.

On

On the preſent occaſion, the officer muſt continually have in view the advantage of the whole army; and with a regard only to his reputation or fortune, he will not be ſo much wanting to his own intereſt, as to prefer a temporary advantage to the faithful diſcharge of his duty. His principal care ſhall be to execute punctually the will of his general, and ſtudiouſly to obſerve all that may be uſeful to the army. He is to remain with his detachment in this country till he is recalled by his commander in chief: or he may withdraw when the inhabitants have made him certain by writing, that they have furniſhed the full amount of his demand on them.

He

He is to take neceſſary precautions for his own ſafety; for he may eaſily imagine that he has much to fear from thoſe who are compelled to ſurrender much of their property. The inhabitants, as they are preparing their contributions, will do their utmoſt, if poſſible, to get rid of their gueſts. Notice of our being in the country will be given to the neareſt enemy, and their unexpected arrival may diſappoint our claims, and protect their property. It will therefore be advantageous to the officer, to quarter in ſuch a manner as to leave behind him the villages which are neareſt to the enemy, and obliged to contribute; and he may learn from his patroles what is the conduct of the

enemy,

enemy, whether they are at reſt or in motion, or whether they have received ſome reinforcements. According to his information he ſhall take his meaſures; either haſtening the delivery of the contributions; or abſtaining from violence, and granting to the inhabitants more time for making their payments. He muſt give notice to his general of all the changes and motions of the enemy which come to his knowledge; becauſe if they ſeem to be deſirous of preventing the contribution, it will be neceſſary to diſconcert their plan, by ſending to the officer a reinforcement. In this manner he will be able to execute his deſign, keeping it always in his mind that he cannot be too exact in the diſcharge of his duty.

Let

Let us ſuppoſe now that one is obliged to lay under contribution a country, in which the enemy are not poſted; but which their frequent patroles render dangerous. This can happen only when we have before us a country, which is not commodious for us; but in which it is advantageous for the enemy to remain, and from which they can either harraſs, or obſerve our army. Every effort muſt therefore be made to deprive them of continuing in ſuch a ſtation: and in conſequence, all which can be taken from this country, is to be immediately, if poſſible, carried off.

It is often the caſe that a general demands proviſions of a country, either

either to ſupply a body of his troops, or to anſwer other purpoſes. On theſe occaſions the officer is to take meaſures different from thoſe which he would take in a country not occupied by the enemy, and ſufficiently remote from them not to be expoſed to their annoyance.

In this caſe, likewiſe, the officer muſt be thoroughly acquainted with the country, and know if the enemy enter it with detachments or only with patroles; in what manner they treat the inhabitants; whether they make themſelves hated on account of their plundering and outrage, or loved on account of their moderation.

The officer is to endeavour to gain the friendſhip of the inhabitants, that by their means he may obtain information about the enemy, and ſecure the ſafety of his own patroles. He ſhall diligently enquire into what diſtrict and to what village the enemy moſt commonly ſend their patroles; if theſe be numerous; by what ways they paſs and return; if the corps from which they are detached be at a diſtance; and laſtly, if the country be full of thickets, marſhes or hills, or interſected in ſome other manner. To get this information he muſt avail himſelf both of expert ſpies, and of his map; and afterwards he ſhall march and diſcharge his duty as well as he can.

As

As in theſe expeditions the officer cannot divide his detachment too much without expoſing himſelf to danger, it will be beſt for him to march, after the manner of a patrole, with a van and rear guard, and patroles on both ſides. He muſt endeavour to conceal his march; and he ſhall accordingly order his ſoldiers to halt on the firſt diſcovery of the enemy, to give him notice of it, and to liſten if the enemy do not change their march and go another way. He muſt not immediately enter a village; but ſtop in a neighbouring thicket or valley; whence he ſhall ſend one or two non-commiſſioned officers, upon whom he may rely, with ſix or eight men: they muſt behave with the

greateſt precaution, if they wiſh to avoid expoſing themſelves to the being diſappointed, or taken priſoners. To ſucceed in their deſigns, the officer, as well as the non-commiſſioned officers, whom he ſhall take care to inſtruct reſpecting what they may have to do, are to poſt their guards in ſuch a manner as to be able to diſcover all the country in the occupation of the enemy.

Patroles are often to be ordered out: they muſt never ſhew themſelves in villages; but muſt always march concealed, and endeavour never to loſe ſight of the ſide where the enemy is poſted: but the officer ſhall continually remain in ſome ſmall wood oppoſite to the village, which he means

to

to lay under contribution; and change his poſition as often as he thinks proper; leſt he ſhould be betrayed, either by deſerters, or by accident: but he is never to change his poſition without giving previous notice of it to his patroles, that they may join him in caſe the enemy ſhould attempt to ſurprize them.

After theſe precautions, he is to ſend ſome ſoldiers to the village with orders to bring to him the director, burgomaſter, judge, or any of thoſe who have the moſt authority in it; and, that they may not know the force of his detachment, he muſt conceal half of it in the thickets, and thus induce them to believe that he is ſtronger than he really is: he ſhall

notify to them the amount of the demanded contribution, and the time in which they are to raiſe it. As they will probably uſe many pretences to avoid giving what is demanded and to obtain a delay, the officer, whom circumſtances will not permit to loſe his time in treating with them, muſt conduct himſelf towards them with haughtineſs, and, reſerving ſome of the moſt conſiderable of their number, muſt ſend the reſt back, threatening to put every thing to fire and ſword, if his requiſition ſhould not be complied with punctually, and in its full extent.

The guards and patroles ſhall take care that none out of the village go ſecretly to the enemy; and they ſhall

make

make priſoners of all thoſe who will attempt it.

Having received what was demanded, the officer ſhall ſend it in waggons to the army under the conduct of a non-commiſſioned officer and ſome ſoldiers; and ſhall trace out their route to them. He ſhall receive from the inhabitants a certificate of what has been raiſed, and preſent it to the general as a voucher for his conduct: the non-commiſſioned officers, who have been detached on this occaſion, ſhall do the ſame; and ſhall demand a certificate of their having not committed any exceſs: the officer may order them to bring him a man of the village, from whom he may inquire reſpecting the behaviour of the

detachment. The contribution being delivered, the whole detachment muſt be informed of its departure, and muſt convoy it to the army.

CHAP. XV.

Of the Alarm-Places.

THE alarm-place muſt be choſen with care: for, in caſe of an alarm, all the ſoldiers muſt aſſemble, in an inſtant, form themſelves, and oppoſe the enemy. To chooſe this place well, it is neceſſary to know the whole environs of the village, and to ſee whether they be mountainous, flat, or interſected: it is neceſſary likewiſe to obſerve, if this place be for a rendezvous in the day or in the night; if many troops can be aſſembled in it; whether

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whether the country be extenſive or bounded; and if the place will ſerve only for light horſe, or for other troops.

If the village be occupied by huſſars, the alarm-place is to be choſen behind it, or on the ſide where the troops in reſerve are poſted; becauſe the enemy, by a briſk approach, might hinder the ſoldiers from aſſembling; and might diſperſe them, were they to repair to the place one by one.

In the day, the alarm-place ſhall be choſen before the village on the ſide of the advanced guards, in order to cover them as well as the quarters.

But

But if the country be flat, and commodious, for the enemy to enter the village on all ſides, it will then be better to chooſe the alarm-place behind it, as we have juſt mentioned, and there keep the ſoldiers awake during the whole night: from that place the officer muſt continually ſend patroles on their rounds for the ſake of ſafety.

The officer, or non-commiſſioned officer of the van-guard is to know this place, that he may find it, in caſe he ſhould have any intelligence to communicate in the night, or ſhould be attacked and repelled and conſequently be obliged to join his troop.

If

If the country be interſected, the alarm-place for the day and night ſhould be choſen behind a defile through which the enemy muſt paſs, becauſe it is eaſy with few men to defend ſuch a place againſt a great number.

It muſt here be obſerved, that it is always a very great fault to take poſt before a defile without being ſupported by infantry.

In caſe of an alarm during the night, the detachment is to aſſemble ſpeedily behind the village, to oppoſe the enemy. Should it be attacked by a ſuperior force, it muſt retreat ſlowly, to give the troops behind time to form

themſelves

themſelves in order to reſiſt the enemy, put them to flight, and perhaps atchieve a bold and glorious action.

Information reſpecting the places above mentioned, muſt be given to the ſoldiers upon the ſpot: the officers ſhall always be the firſt who arrive there, that they may ſtation and form the men as they come in.

CHAP. XVI.

Of the Military Coup d'œil.

ACCORDING to the opinion of the Chevalier Folard, he has acquired true knowledge who has learnt to know the nature and quality of the country in which war is carried on; and is able, at first sight, to discover both the conveniences and inconveniences of the places where he is to choose his posts, that they may be advantageous to himself, or hurtful to the enemy; and thus to take advan-

tage

tage of all the ſurrounding country. This ſkill is what we call coup d'œil; without which an officer is liable to commit the groſſeſt faults; without which nothing good can be expected in our profeſſion; and to obtain which much practice and exerciſe are required.

It is the duty of every brave officer to underſtand war before he engages in it, and to apply himſelf afterwards to the putting of his knowledge into practice. But as men are not continually in a ſtate of hoſtility, the army does not always keep the field, and the regiments aſſemble but ſeldom in the courſe of twelve months to exerciſe, this previous and neceſſary knowledge may be acquired by ſtudy,

under

under the influence of a zeal prompted by the noble desire of gallantly discharging one's duty.

According to Folard's opinion, hunting contributes more than any thing else to improve the coup d'œil: it makes us acquainted not only with different countries, which do not resemble each other, but it teaches us a thousand shifts and schemes, which agree very well with those to be employed in war: a man without thinking of it, may thus become an expert officer, but much practice is subsequently required.

Besides hunting, which on other accounts can be of no real advantage, journeys and walks are very

uſeful for the acquiſition of this talent. A quick eye diſcovers in an inſtant a whole country.

A perſon, deſirous to improve, may aſſign a diſtant poſt to an imaginary enemy, take one for himſelf in the place where he is, and judge of all the advantages and diſadvantages of the ſurrounding places: he may plan the attack of the poſt of the enemy, and of the defence of his own; the variety of the country promoting new diſcoveries and ſchemes, a man deſirous of learning ſomething, will never want the materials for ſtudy.

As a perſon is walking he may judge how diſtant a place is from a determined object; and, to know whether

whether he is miſtaken or not in his opinion, let him meaſure the diſtance by ſteps, and he will thus be convinced of the accuracy or erroneouſneſs of his ſight. All this will eſcape him, who embraces the military profeſſion not from taſte but from neceſſity: this man will never profit by the moſt uſeful and inſtructive occaſions.

FINIS.

whether he is mistaken or not in his opinion, let him use the diffidence by hope, and he will thus be convinced of the accuracy or erroneousness of his fight. All this will escape him, who embraces the military profession not from talte but from necessity: this man will never profit by the most useful and instructive occasions.

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